

I. Shoreline:

a. Update: S. Ziller updated the Board on the recent aerial photographs of the following RDA projects:

- Gary Marquette Park - construction is approximately 50% complete as of the 2nd quarter of 2012. Substantial completions for all activities are scheduled for December, 2012. \$ 28,190,000 has been committed with, \$14,621,293 expended and a balance of \$13,568,706 remains.
- East Chicago Shoreline Gateway/Water Filtration Plant - demolition of the existing plant has been delayed until spring 2013 due to the need to install additional strainer equipment at the new water plant. Installation of additional equipment at the new plant is scheduled to be completed by fall 2012. \$5,880,000 has been committed with, \$1,708,604 expended and a balance of \$4,171,396 remains.
- Hammond Lakes Area - the City of Hammond continues to work diligently on the Hammond projects and all scheduled activities are on time, within budget and scope. \$31,480,000 has been committed with, \$20,639,061 expended and a balance of, \$10,840,939 remains.
- Whiting Lakefront - the off-street parking has been completed along with the landscaping and lightning. \$22,008,225 has been committed with, \$3,583,950 expended and a balance of, \$18,424,275 remains.
- Porter Gateway to the Dunes - the Porter Gateway sub-area along with the Gateway to the Dunes transportation study have both been completed. \$5,731 has been committed with, \$1,802,251 expended and a balance of, \$3,929,249 remains.

B.Joiner reported that another phase S. Ziller is working on is that going forward into future working groups, in terms of the Shoreline, the area we are going to be focusing on is tracking back our recipients to see how they are coming along in terms of identifying and gathering private capital investments that we have made and getting updates.

B.Hanna reiterated on B. Joiner's comment stating that the real value will be in the return on the investments. Once data is collected we will then give a presentation at an upcoming Board meeting. We are excited with the progress being made and when you visit these sites you will find hundreds of hard working individuals.

b. Town of Pines: B.Hanna stated that the Town of Pines application outlines the need for development opportunities for their town.

G. Addy, Town Council President for the Town of Pines asked the RDA to take a good look at the application. The town's location is opportunistic for tourism. The town has a lot to offer, and being such a small town funding is very limited. The Town of Pines is hoping to receive the help of the RDA in order to provide the development/infrastructure to make it more plausible.

L. Verhage added that they are working with the Town of Porter to help make their dream of turning Route 12 into a more scenic highway. Verhage stated that this will have a positive impact on Michigan City up through Michigan seeing that most of the trucks use Route 12 to avoid any tolls/weigh stations.

G. Calpino reported on the following:

- Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Gateway Sub-Area Plans
- Parks Master Plan
 - Community-Wide
 - Town Hall Park
 - Pines Park
- Comprehensive Utility Plan
- Community Economic Development Strategy

B.Joiner motioned to refer the application to the Board for further questions with a second by J. Good. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

II. Airport:

- a. **Update:** L. Morris reported that progress continues to be on time and on schedule for, “more planes to be seen by 2013”, all activity continues to be on trajectory to be completed by December 2013.

B.Hanna stated that the airport is currently putting together a newsletter to keep the public fully updated on all the progress that is being made. If anyone would like to receive a copy, please contact David Wellman, the RDA’s communication manager, and he will add you to the distribution list.

J. Nowacki commented on the airports TIF (Tax Increment Financing) fund and asked the Board about the \$12 million loan that was given towards the runway expansion project. He requested an update regarding the loan.

B.Hanna answered J. Nowacki question regarding the loan stating that they are using the TIF dollars to cover the expense of bids that are underway and the loan will be paid back in full once the contract between the RDA and the Airport has been approved, which should be within the next couple of weeks.

- b. **Other:** *None*

III. Surface Transportation:

- a. **Update:** L. Martinez provided an update regarding the funding source for the RBA. Funding has unfortunately ran out and a long-term funding source was not identified.

T. Torres addressed her concerns stating that millions of dollars had went toward the RBA and not just to provide services but to build a support for regional transportation. She commended the RBA for recognizing the need to support GPTC and the citizens that are in need of para-transit services and she urged the RDA to afford them equal opportunity to get both of these jobs done. While both GPTC and East Chicago have over extended themselves to work with Everybody Counts and the ridership to comply with the Federal Court Decree unfortunately the RBA did not. As a result, there are many legal obligations in which GPTC will be inheriting and among them are some basic tasks that again, the RBA had refused to do. For example, the training of the RBA staff, this the RBA did not fulfill. She asked that the RDA do more than just give Gary gas money and a wish for good luck, and perhaps the RDA can facilitate a transfer of the remaining RBA’s funds to GPTC so that they can be used for the purpose for which the RDA intended them. Lastly, T. Torres stated that her agency and all the members of the Northwest Indiana Council on Assessable Transportation want to reiterate their desire to be of positive assistance to the RDA as you move forward with whatever support you have.

R. Fletcher commended L. Morris and B.Hanna on keeping their word and for standing firm in their result. Moving forward he plans to offer his assistance and is hopeful that by moving forward we can rebuild our broken transportation infrastructure.

B.Hanna reported on the recent application that was received from NIRPC, in which asked for \$100,000 in order to keep para-transit services up and running in areas that were formally serviced by the RBA and Hammond Transit for those with disabilities. It would support Triple A’s continued provision of the service which would force the opportunity to get to those who are most in need without any interruptions. The request is for \$100,000 for local match from the RDA in which we are

bringing an additional \$400,000 for a period of 12 months. It is by no means the solution; however the RDA felt that at a minimum this is a responsibility of all involved to take care of those who are in most need of these services. The RDA operates as the bank of last resort in these particular situations and in this case there is nowhere else to seek \$100,000 for supporting para-transit services.

B.Hanna requested that legal examine those documents carefully within an appropriate timeframe. He asked that we go ahead and authorize the expense of \$100,000 to make the local match with NIRPC as the applicant.

E. Glover motioned for approval of the request with a second by L. Martinez. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- b. Other:** E. Glover asked T. Torres about her comment earlier about the RDA facilitating a move of funds from the RBA to GPTC

T. Torres stated that she had asked if we could do so and not if the RDA had done so. There are funds available and unfortunately she raised a concern before stating that there was a clear conflict of interest because the RDA's attorney is also the RBA's attorney. There is a significant amount of money that remains and she asked the Board members to take full responsibility and put the money towards para-transit.

H. Snyder commented stating that this is yet another band-aide approach, buying us a year at a time. It's time that the appropriate people take responsibility and step forward to solve this once and for all.

B. Joiner added to H. Snyder's comment saying that, we may be buying another year but a much larger problem still remains.

L. Morris emphasized that although the RDA has indicated the on-going funding for para-transit it is not the responsibility of the RDA. We have addressed a willingness to fill the gap and to make sure that we don't have a loss of services

IV. **Economic Development:**

- a. Update:** *None*
- b. Report on Updated Policies:** B. Hanna reported that they are in the process of looking at the policies that the RDA has implemented in the past, and that is to try and make things more flexible for prospects who may be recipients of grants that would help bring jobs to northwest Indiana. The working group is schedule to meet within the next couple of weeks to discuss some of those policies and bring it to the Board for discussion..
- c. Other:** *None.*

V. **Administrative:**

- a. Update:** B. Hanna reported that the RDA is making an aggressive effort in reference to our communication issues and how the RDA keeps the public informed. The RDA recently hired David Wellman as the Communications Manager in which he will be offering new ideas as we move forward and is devising a newsletter to help extend the RDA's accessibility to keep the public informed.

E. Glover thanked D. Wellman for his progress so far and stated that his morning news email is helpful.

VI. Other Business:

a. Update: None

b. Other: None.

VII. General Comment: J. Nowacki reiterated some of the comments made by the members of the public regarding the bus transportation services and the responsibilities have now been thrown upon GPTC, an agency that is already struggling to provide bus services for a hard-pressed community that is in desperate need of a bus service. He also reminded the Board of the Marquette Park project saying that the park looks like a mud hole and that there are too many unfinished projects.

L. Morris commented on the remarks made regarding the RBA and he took a moment to commend the RBA, the Board and their staff for all the good things that they did and also for the effort that they had put forth to try and help the region have an accessible and successful public transportation system. We can all be critical that the outcome was not what all of us would have desired, but the effort that had gone into this process is one that deserves commendation.

S. Adick thanked the RDA on behalf of the RBA for their efforts and although it was unfortunate that they could not find a permanent funding source their focus on going forward is to find that long-term funding source.

T. Torres also commended the RDA going forward in recognizing that the need still exists. The entity that the RDA is supporting needs to build a level of support that will lead to that permanent funding source.

Rev. Rivera thanked the RDA and the RBA for their efforts. There were things that did not happen as we all desired it to, but certainly it has moved the region forward.

VIII. Adjournment: Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Jakubin